

## DIDI HIRSCH PRESENTS 2013 ERASING THE STIGMA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

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LACDMH provider Didi Hirsch held its 17<sup>th</sup> annual *Erasing the Stigma Leadership Awards* at the Beverly Hills Hilton on Thursday, April 18, 2013, utilizing the theme *Music Matters*, to honor the songs and musicians whose work helps to ease the pain of suffering from mental illness and substance use, and whose lives testify to overcoming adversity and battling the stigma associated with having a diagnosis.

Three awards were given to the following individuals who have enlightened and inspired rather than perpetuated negative stereotypes about mental illness:

- Quincy Jones, music industry legend
- Michael Angelakos, musician and lead signer for the band *Passion Pit*
- Jeff Greenberg, CEO and owner of famed Village Recording Studios



Haitian born actress, Garcelle Beauvais, most recently seen in the movie *Flight* as the wife of Denzel Washington, hosted the luncheon and introduced the awardees.



Quincy Jones grew up in a dangerous part of Chicago and saw his mother taken away in a straight jacket more than once. After moving to Seattle, Jones and his brother were neglected by their stepmother. But Jones was able to escape his boyhood challenges with music and worked with Billie Holliday, Ray Charles, Count Basie and Frank Sinatra at an early age. He has won 27 Grammy Awards, more that any other producer.



Michael Angelakos, recipient of the Beatrice Stern Media Award, was diagnosed at the age of 18 with bipolar II disorder. When his manic episodes grew, he was forced to cancel performances with *Passion Pit* and check himself into a mental health facility on two occasions. Following his struggles with bipolar, he decided it

was important to talk openly about his experiences, using his Facebook and Twitter accounts to share resources and links to suicide prevention sites. Michael noted that the best medicine has been his wife, Christy, and that he has found Electro-Convulsive Therapy (ECT) helpful. Angelakos noted that “Laughter, when appropriate, can allow you to harness your mental illness.”



Jeff Greenberg is a former manager, concert producer and ICM Agent. At Village Recording Studios, he has produced top records over the past 40 years. He has lived experience with substance use and is an original member of Musicians Assistance Program. Greenberg has built a recording studio in Boyle Heights for the Los Angeles Youth Opportunities Movement and created mobile sound studios for disadvantaged youth, allowing them access to a world and future possibilities they would not have previously considered.

The mission at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services is to transform lives by providing quality mental health and substance use services in communities where stigma and poverty limit access.

